

THE BELGIAN RESEARCHERS, INC.
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HOLYOKE, MASS. 01040

BELGIAN LACES # 9

February 1979

Dear Members of The Belgian Researchers :

A brand new year ! and along with it a brand new determination to work hard in finding our Belgian ancestors ?

First let's welcome our new member:

41 Thomas J. Huelskamp, 714 Forest Ave. Apt. # 5, Dayton, Ohio 45405
Thomas Huelskamp has ancestors who came from the province of Luxembourg and who settled around New Riegel, Ohio; the Mathias were from Offagne; they came as early as 1839; the Lucius came from Hachy around 1854. Anyone interested in additional informations on the Mathias family, can obtain it by writing to Thomas Huelskamp.

List of Additional surnames

06 BAILLE, 1840, Sprimont, LG
33 BEECKMANS, 1770 ? Assche? EF
06 BERTRUME, 1856, Graide, NR
06 BLANCHY, 1900 Hadimont, Lg. Battice, LG
06 BRASSEUR, 1770 ? Bilstain ? Baelen ?, LG.
33 COLE, 1770? Antwerp ? AN
06 CORMAN, 1789, Battice, LG
06 DARDINE, 1798, Baelen, LG
06 DEBEVE, 1770 ? Baelen, LG
31 DECONNICK, 1741? Warneton, HT
31 DEGGREMONT/DAIGREMONT, 1751, Warneton, HT.
06 DESOUTE, 1760 ? Battice ?, LG.
28 DEPREZ, 1760 ? Lens-Saint-Remy, LG
33 DESMEDT - correction to DE SMEDT, 1793, Assche, AN
06 DEPOUHON, 1818, Battice, Petit Rechain, LG
31 DESPRETRE, correction to DESPRETZ, 1787, Warneton, HT
33 DE WIT, 1715 ? Antwerpen ? AN
06 DIVOY, 1830? Graide ? NR
41 FECK, 1815 ? Offagne, LX
06 FUYA, 1858, Verviers, Baelen, Bilstain, LG
41 HEINEN, 1834, Reisdorf, GD
33 JANSSENS, 1740 ? Antwerpen, AN
41 LUCIUS, 1837, Hachy, LX
41 MATHIAS, 1814, Offagne, LX
41 MORTRIER, 1798 ? Hachy, LX
06 THIRION, 1880, Nouzonville, France - Graide, NR
06 LEJEUNE, 1790, Battice, LG
33 PAUWELS, 1770? Antwerpen, AN
06 PIRARD, 1765? Battice ?, LG
35 VAN DEN BERGE, 1780? Machelen, EF
35 VERCAMPT, 1780 ? Machelen, EF
06 WINANDY, 1760? Rechain, LG

Our list works this way : ex. 06 DEPOUHON, 1818, Battice, Petit Rechain, LG
06 - membership number of the person who sent that surname (see previous newsletters for addresses).

DEPOUHON - surname of ancestor

1818 - year of birth of first ancestor by that surname (going backward on pedigree charts).

Battice - place of birth of that ancestor.

Petit Rechain - place of birth of further generations of ancestors by

*Cher Pierre,
Je me suis renseignée a
U. Mass, ils n'ont pas le dictionnaire
du Brabant, mais ont retrouvé
celui d'Anvers que je n'avais
jamais vu*

*Je l'ai en fait
il ya 1 an et j'en ai
une bonne série de
photocopies.
Mille VDA
bonne nuit
et ...*

If there is a ? after a date or place, it means that we are assuming a date or a place from birthdate or birthplace of children of that ancestor.

(EF stands for East Flanders; WF for West Flanders; AN for Antwerpen; BT for Brabant; NR for Namur, HT for Hainaut; LB for Limburg; LX for Luxembourg, sometimes we even have a GD for Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg). Now that you know everything about our surnames list - or perhaps did my explanations confused you even more ? let's talk a little bit about our organization: The Belgian Researchers, Inc., a non-profit organization open to everyone of Belgian descent, is dedicated in helping its members to do a successful genealogical research. In fact, WE WANT YOU TO BE SUCCESSFUL ! but success in genealogy, like with anything else, depends largely on hard work (a springle of luck here and there also helps !). We, the members of The Belgian Researchers, Inc, our very proud of our Belgian heritage, we realize that in a very quiet way, through the centuries, Belgians have made great contributions to society. To those of you who are LDS we wish to remind them of the importance of the 4 generations program and of sending the names of their ancestors to the Temple.

The membership due is \$ 6.00 payable each year on the anniversary - month of your membership.

Do you have a problem ? write to us.

From our Members

Luana Bauer informs us that the Fall issue of NEBRASKA ANCESTRY, page 89, has an article on a Belgian immigrant who became a Brigadier General in Civil War. His name was Victor Vifquain, born Brussels in 1836, he died in 1904 in Nebraska. She is also very thankful to Loretta Demant for sharing with us the names and places of witnesses; Luana has an ancestor (Dieudonne JOACHIM) who was born in 1821, one of her sources shows him from Brussels, however, another source shows some Rice County, (Minn.) Belgians coming from " Creun " which is most likely the "Crehen " (correct spelling) where the witnesses by the name of JOACHIM were found.

Do you know that that most often on birth, marriage, death certificates, you will find the names, age, occupation, and residence of the witnesses ?

From Denise Thibault, the membership to the " Parchemin" of the Office Genealogique et Heraldique de Belgique cost 770 Belgian Francs, dues are payable to c.c.p. No. 000-0021404-64, Office Genealogique et Heraldique de Belgique, 1040 Brussels, Belgium; members in foreign countries are requested to send an international money order (from THE POST OFFICE).

C.C.P. No. 000-0021404-64, is not an address but an account number, similar to a bank account, but instead of being kept by a bank it's run by the post office. (C.C.P. means Compte-Chèques-Postaux). Denise has a lot of informations on the Thibaults lines going back to Lille, Dept. du Nord, France; she is compiling a book about them, should you have some Thibaults on your lines, please contact her.

James Desreumaux is coming along fine with his Belgian lines, his work on his Swiss ancestors is quite remarkable too, on the BROUCCED lines (settled in Wisconsin) he goes back to 1704, they were from Chablais, Switzerland, and they intermarried with the GAI-BARMAS, MARET, BISSARD, BOVEN, MABILLARD, also from Switzerland.

From Audrey Dupuis, a film number which is not available in the MCC at the Branch Libraries : Film # 790 734, Seraing, Liege Province, year 1836.

We regret to inform you that the price of microfilms has increased from 50¢ plus handling charges to \$ 2.00 plus handling charges !

The London Publishing Co., 247 Scott Lake Road, Pontiac, Michigan 48054 has charts available in French : 1 Family Tree Wall Chart \$ 2.97

(56cm x 87 cm)

20 Ancestral Lineage 1.50

20 Biographical & Historical 1.50

20 Family charts 1.50

From Loretta Demant, a list of names that appear in the 1895 Atlas of Kewaunee Co. Wisconsin, for the township of Red River; she says: I've copied the names just as they appeared on the Atlas. In some cases, the surname has been spelled in more than one way. In other cases where the same name appears in a row, it may be due to it being a father, son or other relative having the same name, or the land was bought on different dates causing the name to be recorded for each parcel of land. Two of the names, F. Villers and Ursille Masse (Masset), are ancestor and son of ancestor of Loretta, they first came to Kewaunee Co. in 1866 and the other in 1856 at age 12. Francois Villers had settled in Luxemburg Twp. but bought adjoining land a few years later in Red River Twp. The following map is also from Loretta.

LAKE MICHIGAN - ACROSS THE LAKE IS THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

RED RIVER TWP - 25 N. RANGE 33 E.	LINCOLN T. 25 N. R. 24 E.	AHNAPEE T. 25 N. R. 25 E.
LUXEMBURG T. 24 N. R. 23 E.	CASCO T. 24 N. R. 24 E.	PIERCE T. 24 N. R. 25 E.
MONTPELIER T. 23 N. R. 23 E.	WEST KEWAUNEE T. 23 N. R. 24 E.	
FRANKLIN T. 22 N. R. 23 E.	CARLTON T. 22 N. R. 24 E.	

1895 ATLAS OF KEWAUNEE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Red River Township (T. 25 North, Range 23 East)

Agamaite, E.	Section 11	40 acres
Agamaite, F.	Section 4	80 acres
Agamaite, F.	Section 10	40 acres
Albert, I.	Section 4	40 acres (approximately)
Allard, Jos.	Section 8	80 acres
Allardo, H.	Section 7	40 acres (approximately)
Alsteen, Jacob	Section 33	40 acres
Bader, E.	Section 17	40 acres
Bader, E.	Section 17	40 acres
Bader, Jos.	Section 21	120 acres
Barbiaux, E.	Section 28	20 acres
Barbiaux, E.	Section 28	40 acres
Barbiaux, J.	Section 21	80 acres
Barrette, J.	Section 27	40 acres
Barrette, J.	Section 27	40 acres
Barrette, Jos.	Section 7	30 acres (approximately)
Barrette, Jos.	Section 8	40 acres
Barrette, P.	Section 5	60 acres (approximately)
Barrette, P.	Section 5	40 acres
Barrette, W.	Section 7	50 acres (approximately)
Barrette, Wm.	Section 5	40 acres
Barrette, Wm.	Section 5	40 acres
Bellin, I.	Section 24	40 acres
Berger, B.	Section 4	40 acres
Bero, J.B.	Section 26	80 acres
Bero, Jos.	Section 28	40 acres
Bero, Jos.	Section 28	20 acres
Bibau, J.B.	Section 16	40 acres
Bodar, D.	Section 20	40 acres
Bodar, D.	Section 20	40 acres
Borle, J.	Section 16	40 acres
Borlec, Jos.	Section 16	60 acres
Bothean, H.	Section 28	20 acres
Boucher, I.	Section 20	20 acres
Boucher, I.	Section 21	40 acres
Boucher, Jos.	Section 29	60 acres
Boucher, L.	Section 22	40 acres
Boucher, L.	Section 27	80 acres
Boucher, X.	Section 23	40 acres
Boulanger, Mrs. Des.	Section 35	120 acres
Boulanger, D.	Section 3	40 acres
Boulanger, J.	Section 18	20 acres
Boulanger, Jos.	Section 8	40 acres
Boulanger, Jos.	Section 17	100 acres
Bourgeois, ?	Section 3	40 acres (approximately)
Bouthiau, H.	Section 28	40 acres
Bredael, A.	Section 32	20 acres
Bredael, A.	Section 34	40 acres
Bredael, M.	Section 32	40 acres
Bredael, M.	Section 33	40 acres
Bredael, P.	Section 32	60 acres
Brice, C.	Section 27	80 acres
Brisen, L.	Section 23	40 acres
Buffiaux, J.	Section 36	20 acres
Buffiaux, Jos.	Section 36	40 acres

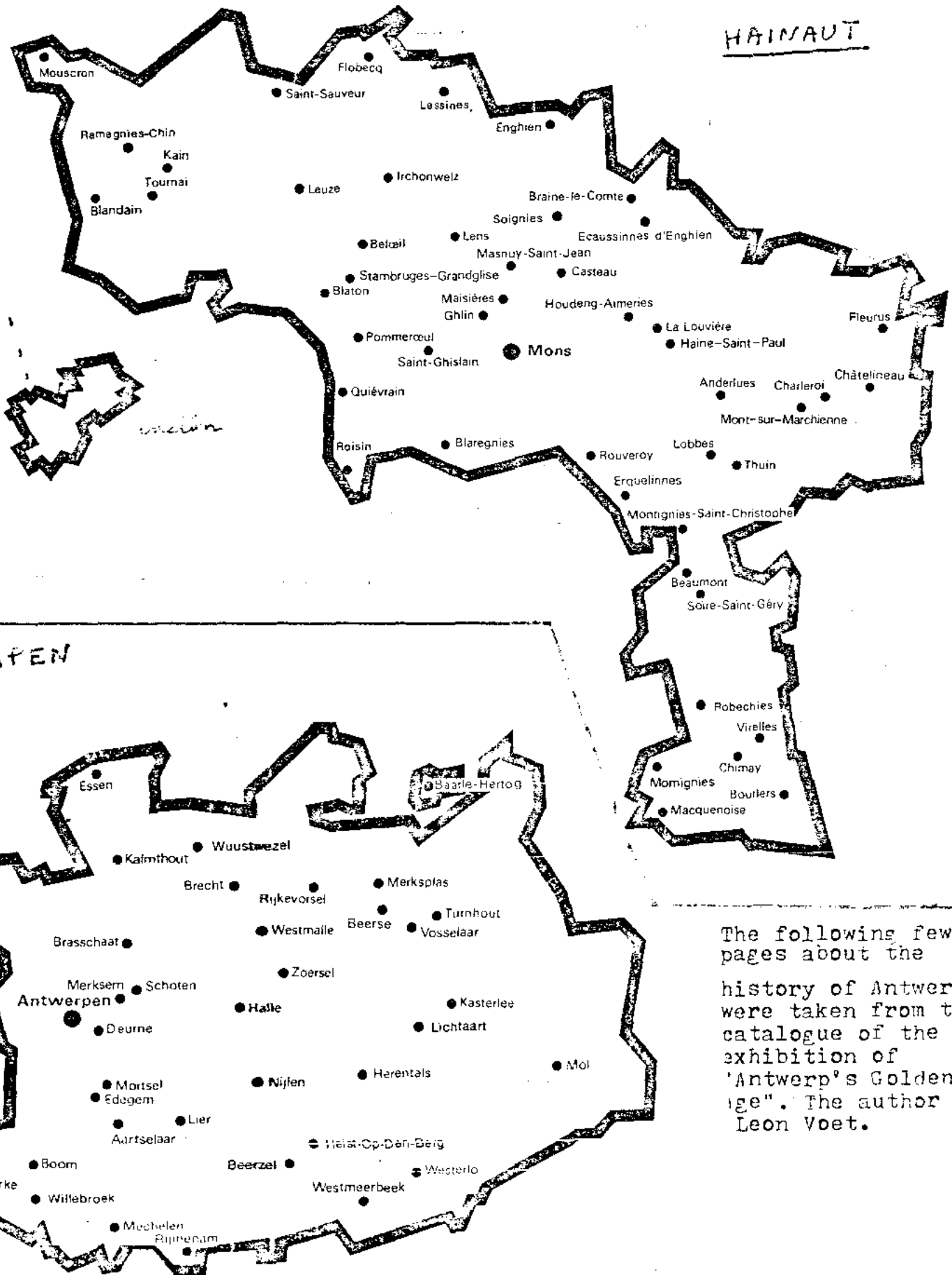
Cesar, D.	Section 24	40 acres
Cesar, D.	Section 25	60 acres
Challe, P.	Section 25	40 acres
Charles, G.	Section 8	40 acres
Charles, Jos.	Section 5	40 acres (approximately)
Charlie, Z.	Section 16	40 acres
Charlier, J.	Section 15	40 acres
Charlier, J.	Section 15	40 acres
Charlier, L.	Section 4	40 acres (approximately)
Collin, A.	Section 17	20 acres
Collin, A.	Section 19	40 acres
Collin, Chas.	Section 31	80 acres
Collins, A.	Section 18	60 acres
Copersmith, I.	Section 18	40 acres
Copersmith, I.	Section 19	40 acres
Cornet, D.	Section 8	40 acres
Cornet, D.	Section 9	80 acres
Correy, J.B.	Section 10	40 acres

D., E.	Section 32	10 acres
Dalemont, Ch.	Section 17	80 acres
Dantoine, H.	Section 1	20 acres
Dantoine, H.	Section 12	40 acres
Debauche, H.	Section 29	80 acres
Debauche, Jos.	Section 12	160 acres
Debauche, L.	Section 12	40 acres
Debecker, Ed.	Section 9	120 acres
Debecker, G.	Section 5	40 acres
Debecker, J.J.	Section 19	40 acres (approximately)
Debecker, J.J.	Section 30	70 acres
Debecker, Jos.	Section 7	15 acres (approximately)
Debecker, O.	Section 5	140 acres
Debraux, J.B.	Section 31	20 acres
Debrecke, J.J.	Section 30	40 acres
Debrecker, Jos.	Section 8	40 acres
Decelle, A.	Section 24	60 acres
Decelle, A.	Section 25	40 acres
Decelle, F.	Section 26	40 acres
Dechamps, J.J.	Section 31	20 acres
Dechamps, J.J.	Section 31	40 acres
Dechamps, V.	Section 31	40 acres
Decker, D.	Section 15	80 acres
Decker, E.	Section 1	40 acres
Decremer, V.	Section 20	40 acres
Decremer, V.	Section 30	40 acres
Defnet, J.	Section 25	40 acres
Defnet, J.J.	Section 23	40 acres
Degreve, H.	Section 14	40 acres
Degreve, H.	Section 15	40 acres
Degreve, H.	Section 23	80 acres
Degreve, P.	Section 20	20 acres
Degreve, W.	Section 20	40 acres
Dejardin, P.	Section 20	40 acres
Dejardin, P.	Section 20	60 acres
Delaine, Jos.	Section 36	80 acres
Delarwelle, P.J.	Section 16	80 acres
Delarwelle, P.J.	Section 16	40 acres

Delebraux, ?	Section 33	40 acres
Delebraux, F.	Section 33	20 acres
Delebraux, F.	Section 33	40 acres
Delebraux, M.	Section 33	60 acres
Delebraux, J.B.	Section 35	40 acres
Delebraux, J.B.	Section 36	40 acres
Delfosse, J.B.	Section 1	40 acres
Delongville, A.	Section 34	40 acres
Delongville, A.	Section 34	40 acres
Delongville, A.	Section 35	40 acres
Delvaux, A.	Section 2	20 acres
Delvaux, A.	Section 2	80 acres
Delwiche, D.	Section 16	80 acres
Demain, A.	Section 35	40 acres
Demain, G.	Section 34	40 acres
Demesne, J.B.	Section 14	40 acres
Demesne, J.B.	Section 23	120 acres
Denis, G.	Section 19	80 acres (approximately)
Deprex, A.	Section 26	80 acres
Deprez, A.	Section 27	20 acres
Deprez, D.	Section 13	40 acres
Deprez, D.	Section 13	60 acres
Deprez, I.	Section 17	40 acres
Dequem, C.	Section 29	40 acres
Derbecker, G.	Section 8	40 acres
Derenne, E.	Section 4	40 acres
Derenne, Theo.	Section 10	80 acres
Derenne, V.	Section 3	80 acres
Derenne, V.	Section 4	40 acres (approximately)
Derinne, E.	Section 10	40 acres
Derinne, T.	Section 10	40 acres
Desbraux, J.B.	Section 31	40 acres
Desotel, N.	Section 8	80 acres
Deterville, L.	Section 15	40 acres
Deterville, L.	Section 21	40 acres
Dinau, I.	Section 22	20 acres
Dinaux, Chas.	Section 22	80 acres
Doyen, F.	Section 32	30 acres
Doyen, F.	Section 33	20 acres
Draye, P.	Section 33	20 acres
Dubois, R.	Section 24	80 acres
Ducas, A.	Section 10	40 acres
Ducas, A.	Section 10	40 acres
Ducas, A.	Section 19	60 acres
Ducat, J.	Section 29	80 acres
Duchateau, D.	Section 18	90 acres
Duchateau, H.	Section 21	120 acres
Duchateau, H.	Section 22	40 acres
Duchateau, Jos.	Section 30	40 acres
Duchateau, Jos.	Section 30	20 acres
Dumoulin, A.	Section 33	60 acres
Dumoulin, P.	Section 28	40 acres
Dumoulin, P.	Section 28	20 acres
Dumoulin, P.	Section 28	20 acres
Dupont, A.	Section 33	40 acres
Dupont, H.	Section 9	80 acres
Duprince, A.	Section 8	40 acres
Duquaine, J.B.	Section 9	40 acres
Duquaine, J.B.	Section 9	40 acres

to be continued in our next newsletter.

It's bad enough that you have to put-up with my misspellings, my poor grammar but on the November issue of the BELGIAN LACES, I enclosed 2 incomplete maps, my apologies..... to make up for that oversight, here are 2 up-to-date maps of Hainaut and Antwerpen.



The following few pages about the history of Antwerpen were taken from the catalogue of the exhibition of 'Antwerp's Golden Age'. The author is Leon Voet.

I. HISTORY OF ANTWERP

1. Antwerp's rise took many centuries

Antwerp's principal asset was—and is still today—its location at the estuary of the river Scheldt, some 50 miles from the open sea. The site was already occupied in Roman times, but the Low Countries then formed a forlorn and desolate outpost of the Empire. They remained a border country for some centuries after the fall of the Western Roman Empire.

At *Andoverpia*, in the 7th century, the Merovingian kings built a fortress to control the dangerous Frisian (Northern Dutch) pirates, the masters of the Scheldt estuary; but trade at the foot of the fortress was all but non-existent. The Carolingians united Western Europe in the 8th century—and for the first time in history the Low Countries ceased to be a border country; they became the intersection of Western European traffic.

The new prosperity attracted less welcome guests. Like so many other emerging *portus* (trade-centers) around the North Sea, Antwerp was gutted by the Vikings (836). In that same 9th century, the Carolingian Empire broke up into feuding kingdoms in which powerful nobles carved out numerous duchies and counties. Chaos continued to prevail. Security remained the principal need of the traders—and that security was sought in the shadow of the castles which now dotted the countryside as suddenly as daisies in spring.

At the end of the 9th century a castle was also built near the place where the Merovingian and Carolingian fortress of *Andoverpia* once stood. Antwerp got a new start. A century later the German emperors made this castle the principal bulwark of a *mark* (fortified border zone), to control the turbulent counts of Flanders, masters of the other side of the river Scheldt. Eventually, when the power of the German emperors slipped in this part of the Empire, the mark, with the castle and the agglomeration at its ramparts, was seized by the Dukes of Brabant.

The worst anarchy passed; trade could finally resume. In their principality, the counts of Flanders, more powerful than the neighboring princes, secured law and order with an iron fist. The Flemish merchants, consequently, were the first to profit from the new opportunities. Ghent became the greatest industrial center of Western Europe; Bruges, at the Swin-estuary, arose to be the great international trade-center of the late Middle Ages. Antwerp had to be

content with the far less glamorous role of regional harbor for the Duchy of Brabant.

2. Antwerp's rise and Bruges's decline in the 15th century

The picture changed in the 15th century. The prosperity of the Flemish and the Southern Brabant cities was based on one staple product: wool cloth. This cloth was made from fine English wool. But in the second half of the 14th century, the English themselves started to weave this wool, instead of exporting it. This was a deadly blow to the Flemish and Brabant textile centers and their principal export harbor, Bruges, all of whom reacted by boycotting the English "Merchants Adventurers," and their merchandise. Only one city in the Low Countries continued to give the English a warm welcome: Antwerp, not being a textile center, had no need to protect its weavers.

The city had in the 14th century organized, together with the smaller harbor of Bergen-op-Zoom, somewhat more to the North, the so-called "Fairs of Brabant," which four times a year (twice in Antwerp, twice in Bergen-op-Zoom) attracted crowds from all over the Low Countries. They attracted also the English cloth-merchants. From the end of the 14th century, the "Fairs of Brabant" became one of their principal outlets on the continent. To buy the English cloth, merchants from West-Germany (Cologne) and South-Germany (Nuremberg and Augsburg) soon appeared. The South-Germans could offer much desired raw materials such as copper and silver from the Bohemian mines. While the Netherlands were in the throes of the most bitter economic crisis of their whole history, Antwerp slowly arose—thanks to its fairs, the English Merchants Adventurers and the German metal lords.

3. From regional center to world-market

At the end of the 15th century the Portuguese found the seaway to India and conquered with it the monopoly of the spice-trade. As early as 1501, the first Portuguese ships with their precious exotic cargoes dropped anchor in Antwerp harbor. The Portuguese had the intention of making Antwerp the trade center of their new riches. There was good reason for their choice. They needed for their trade in Africa and India great amounts of copper and silver—and these amounts they could easily barter in Antwerp with South-German traders. The wheels of fate went turning...

The possibilities offered so suddenly by the Portuguese at Antwerp attracted the big South-German metal magnates and billionnaires of

that time, the Fuggers, Welsers, and Hochstetters. With the money gained by their mutual barter, South-Germans and Portuguese started to buy larger quantities of English cloth. The English Merchants Adventurers had to import such quantities that they could not prepare it adequately. Antwerp specialists were willing to do just that and so the city became an important textile-center for finishing English cloth. Portuguese, Germans, and even the English were eager to buy the cheap cloth (woven with Spanish wool) which had become in the 15th century a speciality of the Flemish and Brabant countryside. Linen also came into greater demand than ever before, being better suited for the tropical worlds opened by the Spanish conquistadores and the Portuguese sailors. This linen boom transformed rural Flanders and Brabant in a few years; acres and acres of farmland became reserved for growing flax and thousands of farmers started to weave that flax into fine linen. The Netherlands textile-industry, now specialized in cheap cloth and linen, got a powerful shot in the arm—and increasing quantities of these products were transported to Antwerp and marketed there.

At first the Spaniards and Italians stood somewhat aloof. The Italian merchants in medieval Bruges had traded in spices essentially. The sudden collapse of the Italian spice-monopoly ruined many of them. But others reacted and hastened to Antwerp with luxury products such as silk and silkcloth. At first the Spaniards had only their wool to offer—and this wool-trade remained concentrated in Bruges, cushioning the death-struggle of the Venice of the North. But when the silver of the Peruvian mines of Potosi started about 1545 to flow to Spain, the Spaniards appeared at Antwerp to buy with this precious silver whatever products they liked.

Antwerp, still a rather sleepy port in 1500, awakening only at the rhythm of the Fairs of Brabant, grew in a hectic two decades to become the big Metropolis of the West. Its population arose in only half a century from some 40,000 to more than 100,000. This means little by modern standards, but in the 16th century European cities with 100,000 inhabitants could be counted on the fingers of one hand. Paris, Venice, and Florence may have surpassed Antwerp, but that was about all.

Antwerp remained essentially a trade-center for the products of the Netherlands (cheap wool cloth, linen, wall tapestries) and foreign wares (Portuguese spices, English cloth, German copper), and correspondingly a banking center. But its industrial activity also developed quickly and grew in importance (finishing of English cloth; manufacture of silk-cloth, imitated from the Italian products). Into the city flocked also many luxury-industries, requiring important capital and

great export possibilities: cutting of diamonds, printing and publishing, and the whole range of art-industries.

4. *Antwerp caught in the political-religious storm of the Eighty Years War*

Antwerp was catapulted into the Metropolis of the West in only a few years. Its splendor was also short-lived. The Low Countries or Netherlands (actual Belgium and Netherlands) became restless in the reign of the Spanish Habsburg, Philip II (1555-1598). Two protest-movements reacted against each other.

The first Protestant movement of Luther's followers was quelled without great difficulties by the authorities, following the rigorous instructions of the Catholic Habsburg ruler, Charles V, father of Philip II. The Anabaptist movement of the years '30 with its social tone is inclined to say "communist") undertones was detested by all parties and the burning of the faithful did not arouse much compassion. But about 1540 a new form of militant Protestantism, Calvinism, began spreading, recruiting its adherents in all classes of society and finding powerful defenders among the nobility. The burning of these Protestants did arouse heavy reactions. The second protest movement had a more decided political character. Philip II felt himself, in the first place, a Spaniard and behaved as such, a fact which was heavily resented in the Netherlands. The higher nobility—both Catholics and Protestants—began to agitate for more autonomy. Their propaganda sent shockwaves throughout the country.

The Calvinist activities and the Anti-Royalist propaganda finally melted together in the big explosion of the Iconoclast-movement (August 1566). The rebellion was stamped out early in 1567. But in his anger Philip II sent the Duke of Alva with a standing army to the Netherlands to control the country in a more rigorous way. The tensions mounted and led in 1572 to the rising of Holland and Zeeland. The other provinces followed in 1576. Bitter bickering between Catholics and Calvinists gave, however, the capable governor for Philip II, Alexander Farnese, Duke of Parma, the opportunity to reconquer for Spain and Catholicism the Southern Netherlands, actual Belgium (1579-1585). The North stood its ground and became the independent and Calvinist republic of the United Provinces (actual Netherlands).

Antwerp had its part in the first phase of this bitter struggle known as the Eighty Years War (1566-1648). It was a Calvinist stronghold in 1566 and in August of that year the iconoclasts ravaged its churches and cloisters. But the Duke of Alva ordered a citadel to be built at the South side of the City—and with the guns of the citadel pointed at

their houses, the Antwerp citizens remained very quiet during the following years. Out of the citadel, however, came on Sunday, 4 November 1576, mutinous Spanish soldiers to storm, plunder, and burn the city—a fateful day, remembered since as the “Spanish Fury.” The Spanish soldiers eventually retired and a revengeful Antwerp joined the rebellion and opened its gates for the Calvinists. The city became, together with Ghent, the foremost Calvinist stronghold in the South. It was also the last Southern bastion to capitulate in August 1585 to Alexander Farnese, after a heroic struggle and a siege which lasted more than a year.

5. Antwerp remains a thriving center for another three quarters of a century (1585-1650)

Antwerp capitulated in August 1585 on very honorable conditions; but its position as Metropolis of the West belonged to the past. More than half of its citizens left the city, mostly to the triumphant North, where many of them played an important role. The rise of Amsterdam in those years was largely due to the import of Antwerp merchants, artisans, capital, and know-how.

The years immediately following the capitulation were among the worst in Antwerp's long history. But, somehow, the city was able to regain some of the lost positions. Antwerp's decline is traditionally ascribed to the closing of the Scheldt by the United Provinces (de facto from 1585; de jure at the Treaty of Munster, 1648). In fact, the closing of the Scheldt was never very hermetical. By levying taxes on import and export, the United Provinces had all interest in keeping alive Antwerp's trade. They required only that the wares had to be transported on Dutch ships.

Other factors were far more important. Antwerp's towering position in 16th century world-trade reposed on two cornerstones. Its growth in the first years of the century was due to the fact that it became then a transit-center for foreign commodities. Thanks to this circumstance the city became very soon the export center for Netherland's products—including many goods manufactured within its own walls. One pillar of Antwerp's prosperity was blown to pieces between 1572 and 1585. Antwerp ceased to be a transit-center of any importance. The English cloth-merchant and the German metal-magnate did not return after 1585. Only the Southern foreign merchant-communities—Spaniards, Portuguese, Italians—remained, but their numbers and influence dwindled. Antwerp, however, remained the export center for the Southern Netherlands. The years after 1585 were catastrophic only because Antwerp's hinterland was desolated.

The situation bears some resemblance to the one in Germany in 1945. But the rubble got removed, the fields tilled and cheap cloth and fine linen became available once again for export. In Antwerp itself the finishing of English cloth was no longer done but the new silk-industry grew in importance. The artistic production—also largely concentrated on export—won in intensity and diversification. Antwerp lost its position as Metropolis to Amsterdam, but could thrive reasonably well for some decades to come, as the trade-center of the still very active Southern Netherlands. As a center of art it shone even more brilliantly than ever before: it became the capital of the Baroque North of the Alps.

About 1650, the picture again became gloomy. The wars of Louis XIV of France devastated anew Antwerp's backyard. And this time there was no redress. Antwerp regressed into a not too important regional trade-center with a limited industrial activity. It had to wait until the beginning years of the 19th century, when Napoleon built it into “the pistol directed at the heart of England” to arise as the eternal phoenix out of its ashes and to become once again, if no more the Metropolis of the West, at least one of the important ports of the world and, since the Second World War, one of the big industrial complexes of Western Europe.

II. THE CITY

Antwerp grew into a city around a small market-place at the foot of a fortress guarding the river Scheldt. Later known as the Fish-Market, the original townsite (which disappeared in 1880-1885, with the construction of the Scheldt-quays), faced the principal gate of the fortress, the actual “Steen” (literally “Stone”) now housing the National Maritime Museum.

The castle was situated on a tongue of land which projected slightly into the water at the right bank of the river Scheldt, and formed a natural wharf. In concentric circles around the “Steen” and the Wharf, Antwerp began to expand, without spreading, however, to the opposite side of the river. The width of the Scheldt at this point—some 500 meters—undoubtedly discouraged Antwerp's growth on the far side of the river, but more important was the fact that from the very beginning, the Scheldt formed the boundary between to feuding principalities: Antwerp in Brabant faced a foreign and often hostile Flanders. Antwerp's citizens stuck to their side of the river.

While the city developed into a megalopolis, the Flemish bank opposite the city remained farmland, with only a small hamlet, the "Vlaams Hoofd" (Flemish Head), across from the Antwerp Wharf. Here travellers from or to Flanders could ferry across the stream. Only since World War II has Antwerp's "Left Bank" taken form; it is rapidly becoming a flourishing residential quarter.

As Antwerp grew in importance, its citizens, like those of other towns, took the vital matter of security into their own hands, and surrounded the city with walls and moats. As Antwerp expanded, this band of ramparts had to be loosened and replaced periodically by a new and larger one, encompassing new suburbs which had arisen in the meantime.

The oldest ramparts were built at the end of the 12th century, enclosing about 40 hectares (approximately 100 acres). A new effort, about 1300, nearly quadrupled the fortified area (up to 156 ha : 385 acres), while some additional works at the east-side did gain at the end of the 14th century another 50 ha. About 1400, Antwerp had a population of some 15,000 people. That number grew to 40,000 by about 1500. The population became 53,000 about 1525, and rose steadily to 100,000 in the following years. The number of houses rose at the same rate : 2,407 about 1400 ; then 6,153 in 1496 ; 7,943 in 1526, and 11,482 in 1568.

Because of the foresight of the citizens of Antwerp who had promoted expansion in the 13th-14th centuries, the great population-explosion of the 16th century could easily be absorbed within the walls that had been built about 1400 : fortunes were won by real estate speculators who destroyed the large gardens and open spaces and crammed them with buildings.

By accident, a new enlargement of the city's fortified area was decided. In 1542, the army of the duke of Gelre unexpectedly appeared before Antwerp's gates. That army retired after some days but the alarm had been a warning. Government and city authorities discovered to their dismay that the old medieval walls and towers had crumbled into ruins. If it had not been for the belligerent attitude of its citizenry, who mobilized to face the invader, the greatest city of Western Europe could easily have been stormed and plundered. A repetition of the threat, however, was not wanted ; new ramparts were erected between 1543 and 1545, incorporating the latest refinements of military engineering. These ramparts have disappeared, but their outlines can be discovered in the large avenues which encircle the old city in a wide arc, from north to south.

The authorities took advantage of the occasion to enclose another 133 acres of swampy terrain to the North of the city. It is not clear whether land speculation was anticipated. If that were the case, they had made a miscalculation : in this newly won "Nieuwstad" (New City) only a few buildings and houses were built. It remained largely an open ground. However, this area would play an important role in

Antwerp's economic life. The city was primarily a river harbor. Sea and river ships had to be loaded and unloaded at the great "Werf" (Wharf) near the "Steen," and at some smaller quays along the river. The rapid increase of traffic had caused the quays to become heavily overcrowded. In the "Nieuwstad" a network of canals was constructed to accommodate the smaller barges and river boats, leaving the Scheldt facilities to the larger seafaring vessels. If the "Nieuwstad" did not become a residential quarter, its docking possibilities greatly improved the city's commercial activities.

A final enlargement of the city was the least agreeable to its citizens. The Spanish authorities, after the crushing of the Calvinist rebellion in 1567, started immediately building a citadel at the South-side of the town. The outer bastions were integrated into the ramparts so as to help defend the city, but from the inner bastions, guns were pointed at the residential quarters—to keep the citizens quiet.

Feverish construction in the 16th century completely changed the face of Antwerp. A visitor of about 1500, coming back in 1600, would have found a new city, with but only a few recognizable spots. After Antwerp's 1585 capitulation to Spain, half of the population (Protestants as well as Catholics) emigrated. Life became quieter in the once hectic and overcrowded city, and construction slowed down. But many a rich citizen could still afford to build a patrician's house or help to construct a church in the new baroque style.

Later generations have torn down large parts of what their 16th and 17th century forebears had built. Landmarks, however, still remain for the modern tourist. To cite only the most important : the gothic Cathedral with its spire (finished in 1518) ; the gothic Saint-James and Saint-Andrew churches, both finished in the early 16th century ; the baroque Carolus Borromeus church—a masterpiece in its kind ; the "Steen" (now the National Maritime Museum) ; the gothic "Vleeshuis" (Butchers' Hall) of the beginning years of the 16th century (now housing the Museum of Applied Arts of the city) ; the Town Hall, one of the first monumental Renaissance-constructions in the Netherlands (1561-1564) ; the houses of Plantin and Rubens, both now a Museum.

Construction-techniques in the 16th-17th centuries prohibited high buildings. Antwerp, in its Golden Age, was not covered with skyscrapers : the feverish building boom of the 16th century largely consisted in crowding one or two storied houses more closely against each other. In the 16th century, however, the very wealthy showed a predilection for slender towers, reaching sometimes as high as eighty feet, with an enlargement at the top. The practical value of these towers was of small importance, but to the passers-by they indicated the wealth of their owners ; they formed, consequently, an important status-symbol. Some of these 16th century "Spanish towers" can still be seen in the older parts of the city. Wooden houses have long been forbidden for fear of fire, but wooden facades remained common for

centuries. A single one, in an old street of the old city, has escaped fire and axe till today.

Life in Antwerp in the Golden Age would certainly seem dull and primitive to men of modern civilized countries. Many houses, in the 16th century, did only have partly paneled windows. When the temperature dropped, or rain battered the facades, the shutters had to be closed—darkening the room even in full daylight. The heating was in open hearths with peat—which produced much smoke but few calories.

These hardships, however, were common to contemporary Europe, and those 16th and 17th century visitors who put down their impressions on paper all agreed that Antwerp was one of the most pleasant cities to live in.

"Onnuegange" (religious pageants, but very often with laical elements) and "kermissen" (feasts, generally in connection with the patron-saint of a given church) and occasionally the ceremonial entry of a prince or governor, attracted crowds from afar. Lent was an occasion for rowdy amusement; weddings saw gargantuan feasts; the markets were always overcrowded. In the taverns, which dotted the city in countless numbers, nobody remained thirsty when he had some pennies. The amateurs of military drill could look at the exercising-schools of the military guilds. The "stoven" (bathing houses) and dancing-schools formed an attraction for many. Sports-minded people could remain fit in fencing schools, or compete in bowling-alleys and hand-ball games. On warm summer-Sundays, half of the population went picknicking in the meadows and bushes of the surrounding countryside. In winter, when the ice got thick enough, skating on the Scheldt or on the moats was a popular pastime... Life was not bad in Antwerp in its Golden Age.

LEON VOET

Namur

Many thanks to all of you for your contributions to BELGIAN LACES.

Mainaut ou l'épopée d'un peuple by Georges Bohy (2 vol.) is available on inter library loan from UMass, call # DH 8801 8804

Found in Alberta, Canada, a lake called Namur !!!

The military records of Liège, available on microfilms, list all the young men of the towns and communes, old enough to be enlisted. It gives many details about these young men and if not enlisted the reason why. More or less by towns in alphabetical order

This list of marriages was sent to us by George Jansen, Jr.

ARDOYE, West Flanders,

- MUIJLLE, Christina X VINCKIER, Jan 1608
" , Petrus X VANNESTE, Marie, reg. 5, page 53, Feb. 1695
" , Guilhelmus X VANDEWAETER, Marie, reg. 5, page 60, 2 Nov. 1698
" , Ambrosius X SEIJS, Marie Joanne, reg. 6, page 83, 2 Aug. 1726
" , Pieternelle, X VANDEHULTE, Emmanuel, reg. 6, page 111, 1 Feb 1733
" , Joanne Therese X DEMEULENAFRE, Adrian, reg. 6, page 206, 7 Nov 174
" , Pieter Jacob X BROUCKAERT, Marie Catherine, Reg.7, page7,2May1751
" , Hilarius X GOTTAEERE, Anne Catharine, reg. 7, page 102,23 Apr. 1757
" , Constanta Regina X MAERT, Petrus, reg.7, page 103, a4 June 1757
" , German X VANDEVELDE, Marie Joanne, Reg.8, page 8, 9 May 1762
" , Jacob X CALLEWAERT, Marie Anne, reg. 8, page 19, Feb. 5, 1765
" , Ambrosius X PERNED, Anne Marie, reg.8, page 40, 7 Sept. 1769
" , Anne Catherine X DICKELE, Jan, reg.8, page 69, 31 Dec. 1775
" , Jan X BELAEN, Marie Anne, reg. 8, page 77, 16 Sept. 1777
" , Angela X DEVOS, Martin, reg. 9, page 67, 2 July 1789

Births:

- D'HOOGHE, Andreas, reg. 4, page 47, 1 July 1664
D'HOOGHE , Anna, reg. 4, page 66, 22 Aug. 1666
D'HOOGHE , Andries, reg. 4, page 66, 22 Aug 1666

The name MUIJLLE or MUYLLE also appeared in numerous birth records, it will be for next newsletter.

Raymond Kokkelenberg who is also very successful in tracing his Belgian ancestry, has found a Kokelenberg living in Montreal, Canada, his ancestors also came from St. Niklaas.

*you should
may in 1850 92*

GEOGRAPHICALLY SPEAKING

St. Niklaas, East Flanders: "gemeente" and main town of the county of St. Niklaas, of the district and 3 miles 1/4 N.N.E. of Dendermonde (Termonde) at 6 miles 3/4 E.N.E. of Gent.

It is bordered N. by St. Pauwels (St. Paul); St. Gillis-Waas; Nieuwkerken; in the E. by Haasdonk (old spelling Haesdonk) Temse (Tamise); in the S. by Tielrode; Elversele; and W. by Waasmunster and Belsele. This community is made of the city of St. Niklaas and of the hamlets and sections of Vyfstraeten, Cleybeke, Ter Eekemeulen, Hoog-Kameren, Heymeulen, Kettermuyt, Raep (de), Kleyn Hertje, Kleyn Brugtje, Spievelde-Hock, Ter Eeken, Vrouwen Eekhoek, Dry Gaeyen, Dry Koningen, Keulenaer, Smokkel, Vil, Passe, Smisstraet, Kuildan, Heystraet, Botermelkstraet, Clapperbeek and Breedstraet.

There are no waterways.

The best lands are made of sandy argile, it's topsoil is of 3-4 inches. The cultivated area is of about 2,145 bonniers *, on an average year the recolt is of about 2,300 bushels of wheat; 4,300 bushels of rye; 1,100 bushels of barley; 25,700 bushels of oats; 12,500 bushels of buckwheat; 51,000 bushels of potatoes; 300 to 350 "bonniers"* are cultivated with flax; which gives 125 to 139,000 lbs. of seeds. The farming of hops and humps (!) is not important. There are 374 horses, 1040 cattle heads, 200 pigs, 723 sheep, 80 goats.

POPULATION: In 1661 this city had 5,017 inhabitants. For 50 years the population has steadily grown; in 1774, there was 7,948 inhabitants

This city is made of 3144	in 1794,	"	"	10,800	"	"
Houses. There are 2 churches,	in 1808,	"	"	10,940	"	"
2 chapels, 1 townhall, 1	in 1820,	"	"	13,866	"	"
hospital, 2 orphanages,	in 1824,	"	"	14,295	"	"
1 convent or seminary, 1	in 1831,	"	"	16,386	"	"
jail, 7 schools including 1						

Sunday school, 1 Art School, a music academy. This city is well built, the streets are wide, straight with many beautiful houses. The main streets are named Plaisantstraet, Ankerstraet, Nieuwstraet, Kalkestraet, Kockelbeek, Walburgstraet, Peperstraet and Hofstraet. The market place is one of the biggest of the country, it's 9 bonniers *; the buidings surrounding it are magnificent; in the North and South, the lime trees provide a nice area for leisure walks. One can see in the parish church a few very good paintings from the Flemish School; the 5 naves of that church rest on top of 4 doric styled pillars. The college's church has also a few precious paintings.

The town hall is a modern buiding, in which one can see a painting by E.J. Smeyers, depicting Archiduke Philippe-le-Beau taking the oath to maintain the statute, customs, and privileges of the land of Waes (that ceremony took place on the 7th of June 1497, on the Market Place, under a lime-tree). The city has also a chamber of commerce and industry, an agricultural society and a few insurance companies.

Commerce and Industry : Industry is flourishing in St. Niklaas. There are manufacturers of cloth, coatings, woollen blankets, socks, stockings, Siamese calico, material of cotton and silk, ribbons, threads, paper, carts, fine leather, brooms, lace, straw and felt hats, soap, candles, starch, chicory, chocolate, tobacco, pins, clay pottery, pewter, pipes, there are a great number of breweries, tanneries, currying plants, cotton spinning mills, cotton printing mills, salt refineries. There are oil, tan, fulling, chicory, tobacco and flour mills. The production each year reaches 26,000 barrels of beer; 1,100 barrels of vinegar, 965,000 aunes ** of cotton and calico, 3,000 aunes ** of cotton and silk material, 12,000 barrels of flax

GEOGRAPHICALLY SPEAKING, ST. Niklaas, Cont.

and rape-seed (colza) oil; 4,000 Doz. pipes, 5,000 aunes ** of ribbons; 800 barrels of soap; 150,000 lbs. of salt, 20,000 lbs. of tobacco, 25,000 lbs. of thread; 20,000 aunes of cloth, 2,100 skins to serve as leather for soles, 25,000 skins for leather of upper parts of shoes, and 2,500 calves skins.

Fairs and Markets: There are 2 fairs per year, on the 3th. of May and the first Monday of December, it's mainly for cattle and horses. The market held on Thursday is renown; about 900,00 lbs. of flax, and 380,000 bushels of grains are sold there every year. The road from Gent to Antwerpen goes through the city from West to East. The secondary roads are well kept and can be used year round.

* bonnier; French word not very much in use anymore and only in Belgium and perhaps also in Northern France, the Walloon word for it is bouni; it's about 3 1/3 acres.

** aune, about 4 feet.

This description of St. Niklaas was taken from " Dictionnaire Geographique de la Flandre Orientale " by Philippe Vander Maelen. Philippe Vander Maelen was born in Brussels Dec. 23, 1795, son of Guillaume Vander Maelen and Barbe-Anne de Raeymaeker, both of whom came from Leuven. His uncle Philippe, a farmer, became burgomaster of Leefdael; his father Guillaume and his uncle Bernard, both graduated in medicine from the University of Leuven (Louvain). Philippe Vander Maelen was the best cartographer of that century, one of the last great map-makers. An almost complete collection of his works (about 5,000 maps) are housed in the Bibliothèque Royale, Brussels.

Cont. from page 14 of BELGIAN LACES # 3.

Ship Lochinvar, 14 March 1855; RUBENS Charles, 28, Marie Ant. RONDE.... and children from Pietrebais, BT.

FONTAINE, Jean Remi, 51; Vandeville, Marie Els. and children from Hanret, Nr.

NOIRSIN, Edmond, 25, from Leuven, BT. signed his name NOIRSAIN

DEGREFF, Joseph, 23 from Oudheverlee. BT.

Ship " FANNY", 19 march 1855, DEBAKER, Johan, 28 from Moerkerke, WF.

SERVE, Nic., SERVE, Adolph, 27, from Nothomb, Lx.

VORKERTZ, Pierre Jean, 44, from Willebroek, AN, signed VOLKERS.

Name of ship is not available for the following: VANDER EYDEN Johann 36,

Quatresols, Elis. and Children, VANNAF Susanna, QUATRESOLS Pierre, 43,

VAN DE EYDEN, Maria, 44 from Oud Heverlee, BT.

PERLEZ, Elenore, 26, Esther, 23, from Brussels, BT.

MAKELBERG, Maria, 31, from Woumen, WF.

I must admit that I simply forgot to copy the name of the ship for the above people.

Next year Brussels and Liege will celebrate their 1,000 anniversary. This year the parish of Saive, LG. is 700 years old.

The March 1979 issue of the National Geographic Magazine has an article about Belgium.

Inquiries sent to the city of Antwerp about their archives, have not been answered. yet. patience.....
